

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 149344

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DRAFTED BY L:MBFELDMAN:LHS

APPROVED BY L:MBFELDMAN

ARA/CEN - MR. GOWEN

S/S - MR. BORG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149344

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO CASE -- EXTRADITION LAW

REF: SAN JOSE 2598

1. YOU CORRECTLY INFER THAT WE HAD NOT PLANNED TO INCLUDE JUSTICE OR U.S. ATTORNEY IN MEETING WITH ODUBER'S REPRESENTATIVE. WE REASONED THAT PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS CHANGES IN COSTA RICAN EXTRADITION LAW AND NOT TO DISCUSS THE VIABILITY OF ANY PARTICULAR EXTRADITION CASE THAT MIGHT BE BROUGHT IN THE FUTURE OR TO REHASH THE PROBLEMS WITH THE LAST CASE. OUR MAIN CONSIDERATION WAS TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF DISCLOSURE OF THIS MEETING IN VIEW OF THE CRITICISM IN THE COSTA RICAN PRESS OF U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN THAT COUNTRY. IN VIEW OF THE EMBASSY'S POSITION REFTEL WE NEED TO RECONSIDER THIS MATTER. WE HAD ALSO THOUGHT THAT WE COULD GET FURTHER WITH OUR VISITOR IF THE MEETING WAS SMALLER AND THE EXCHANGE MORE INFORMAL. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT THIS CONVERSATION

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PAGE 02 STATE 149344

WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE THROUGH AN INTERPRETER WILL

INEVITABLY MAKE IT MORE STILTED AND LESS EFFECTIVE.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON THESE POINTS
BY IMMEDIATE CABLE TOGETHER WITH YOUR ESTIMATE OF
WHETHER UMANA WOULD BE PREPARED TO STAY OVER THE WEEKEND
IF WE CANNOT ARRANGE JUSTICE PARTICIPATION BEFORE MONDAY.
KISSINGER

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NNN

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